(b) whether it is also a fact that panel recommended by Public Enterprises Selection Board for the CMD of ONGC has been scrapped and if so, what are the specific reasons in this regard; and

(c) by when the post of CMD is likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM **AND** NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHAJ. PATEL): (a) to (c) The post of Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) has fallen vacant with effect from 25.5.2006, consequent on the expiry of the five-year term of the then CMD, ONGC. The proposal of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas for appointment of Shri R.S. Sharma, Director (Finance), ONGC, from the panel recommended by the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) as CMD, ONGC was returned on 6.2.2007 by the Competent Authority with directions to provide for fresh selection from a wider choice including candidates from outside PSUs, and also that the selection of CMD, ONGC be made through a Search-cum-Selection Committee under the Chairmanship of Chairman, PESB.

The Search-cum-Selection Committee is likely to meet shortly to interview candidates and to give its recommendation. After receipt of the recommendation of the Search-cum-Selection Committee, necessary approvals will be obtained and the appointment of the Chairman and Managing Director made.

Malpractices in LPG supply

4388. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH:
DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details and statistics of action taken under the LPG (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000 for various malpractices, total FIRs registered and their disposal, during the last three years, with States/ year-wise and malpractice-wise break-up;

(b) the statistics and details of action taken by oil marketing companies against the erring LPG distributors in terms of the Marketing Discipline Guidelines/Distributorship Agreement; and

(c) whether the shortage of LPG has been totally eliminated, as assured by him?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHAJ. PATEL): (a) Under the LPG (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000 promulgated under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 the diversion/black marketing of domestic LPG cylinders for commercial purposes by the distributors of Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) is prohibited. The State Governments are empowered to take action against erring distributors under the provisions of this Order. The State Governments have been alerted from time to time to take steps against the diversion of domestic cylinders for unauthorized usage. Information on total FIRs registered and their disposal is being collected.

(b) OMCs have taken action against 3154 LPG distributors in the country during the last three years under the provisions of Marketing Discipline Guidelines/Distributorship Agreement.

(c) There is no overall shortage of LPG in the country. Government is ensuring that adequate quantity of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) is available in the country. LPG supplies to distributors are being made by the OMCs through indigenous production and imports in accordance with the genuine demand of customers registered with the LPG distributors. As on 1.5.2007, no shortage of LPG has been reported by OMCs in any part of the country.

Strike by Federation of All India Petroleum Traders

4389. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:
SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Federation of All India Petroleum Traders have threatened to go on an indefinite strike from April 28 if Government do not give serious thought to their five-point charter of demands;

(b) if so, what are these five-point charter of demands and what is Government's reaction to their demands; and